



“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

--John 4:24

“Not Where We Worship, but How”

This verse from the Gospel of John comes from a beautiful story of restoration and reconciliation—the woman of Samaria at the well. In the course of one conversation, she comes to realize Jesus knows her inside-out. As she realizes Jesus is her Savior, old traditions fall away and new ones take hold.

Her ancestors worshipped on a particular mountain; where she worshipped made her worship valid, or so she thought. Jesus now teaches her it is not where you worship, but what you bring to worship and receive from it that makes worship valuable to your soul.

That’s a lesson we have learned ourselves, as Covid-19 has left us outside the walls of our sanctuary. Instead of sitting in our favorite pew, we find a spot on our living room sofa and cradle a hot cup of coffee. Our worship is no less valid. Worship does not depend on a particular location to be valid. What you bring to worship and what you receive is that which makes worship, worship.

Where we worship will never be as important as what we do in worship, giving God our adoration and first place in our hearts—receiving God’s Spirit, teaching and benediction. So, if we worship online, or outside as the sun sets in the church yard, or back in our sanctuary, each of these ways of adoring God is equally beautiful and valid. Come November 8th, it is my hope, for those who are ready to return to our sanctuary, that this will once again be an option.

I will be submitting a plan to our Superintendent next week for our return to in-person, indoor worship. Still, while things will not be just like they were before (expect masks and social distancing and no singing, for example), we will be back in our familiar and beloved space once again.

For those who return to in-person worship, I hope this will be a celebration. For those who remain online, I hope this will be a celebration. Just as we all have different gifts in our souls, so in this time of ambiguity, we may choose different ways to worship—we may choose different places. Many gifts, one spirit; many ways to worship, one spirit.

For now, St. Luke’s, we have online worship, drive-through Communion, and outdoor Sunday evening vespers. Come November, we will end our vesper services, but hope to restart in-person, in-door worship. However God calls you to worship, in whichever of these ways, wherever you happen to decide to sit, we celebrate God’s goodness together with you, in spirit and truth.

God bless and protect you, Pastor Lisa

Return to Worship

'Lord Willing and the DS says "Yes! . . .'
St Luke's will return to in-person worship,
with plenty of precautions,
Sundays at 11am,
beginning November 8th.

(More details will follow, once we have approval from Dr. Lee!)

New Flags Flying!

St. Luke's extends sincere appreciation to Keith Miller and the Men's Club for the new Church and American flags flying so proudly on our front lawn. We thank you, gentlemen, for the thoughtful gifts and the enhancement they provide. Long may they wave!

October thru December Communion Outreach Items

We will be collecting peanut butter for the October Communion Sunday; November will be Thanksgiving turkeys; and in December, items for the Christmas Mother. These gifts must be new and un-wrapped, a toy for any age child or clothing, or something for seniors.

During each of these months, if you prefer, just make a donation. It will be sent to either the Belmont Food Pantry or the Christmas Mother.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Thank You!

Special thanks to Ray Kyle for his superb efforts in making Sunday morning hymns so readily available to our online viewers. Having the words right there on the screen is so nice for all in attendance. We appreciate you, A. Ray!

Our sincere appreciation as well to Shirley Gary who provides telephone listeners with computer printouts of hymns and other liturgical offerings each Sunday morning. Being able to follow the entire service makes it much more meaningful. Thanks Shirley!



BE INFORMED

Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting —

<http://www.vaumc.org>

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace and justice across the nation

Prayers for our preschool, for a safe and wonderful year ahead!

Tom Brown

Wayne Johnson

Barbara Armstrong

Joan Crawford

Dianne Rust

Doris Teeter

David Higgins

Taylorann Bradon

Chuck Fayle

Bob & Jan Hall

Dean Smith

Haley deKrafft

Bobby (Pastor Lisa's uncle)

Rose Kessler

Florence Smith

the Epps Family

Leslie Howser

Wilmer & Phyllis Downs

Joyce Arrington

Bettie Jones

Debi Clements

Deannie Reynolds

Opal Holshouser

Gayle McGonigle

Haley's mom, Lisa Taylor

Our Military

Robbie Bowen

Aaron Frankey

Holden Russell

St. Luke's Face Book Page

Make sure you like the St. Luke's Facebook page to keep up with everything going on at church. Also, please like and share the posts and events. The more we share and like, the more others will see what a wonderful place St. Luke's is -- and all the things that we are doing!

Here's a link to our page:

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Lukes-United-Methodist-Church-486188658201339/>

Council Honors “Super Cyber Guy” & “Responder-in-Chief”

On September 27th, prior to their Zoom meeting, St. Luke’s Administrative Council recognized two amazing members for their “superlative” service to Christ and His Church. Certificates and tokens of appreciation were presented in a drive- thru ceremony in the church parking lot, horns a-honking in affirmation.

When the pandemic was declared, Pastor Lisa had zero knowledge of broadcasting worship over the internet. On March 15 she sent out an SOS, and by March 22, Brian Kaeser had Online Worship up and running. The first setup was a computer on a music stand, but it worked! Brian taught our pastor and staff Webex and Zoom, and then consulted on our new permanent streaming system. Brian has given more than a month of Sundays, getting up early on Sunday while his family sleeps in, to get and keep St. Luke’s on the air; and he is now training a new crop of volunteers on angles, mics, streaming, settings, and how to fly the new system which Lisa has dubbed “the Space Shuttle.” Any wonder Brian’s nickname is Super Cyber Guy?

Keith is the very quiet behind-the-scenes guy, who never asks for thanks but is always there to help! He has manned our audio-visual system for years, often giving every Sunday morning for months at a time, preparing power points, formatting videos for worship, assuring sound quality and overseeing the old projector and its set up. Keith has also seen to boosting our wifi signal, responding to computer-related SOS (“save our sanity!”) staff questions, and offering many evenings to switch out computers, trouble-shoot a programming issue, and even sets us up for VBS registrations. When not doing this, you can find him replacing broken water spigots, fixing the kitchen ice maker and responding to oodles of devices and people who need just a little TLC. For all this and more, Keith is proclaimed one tremendous Responder-in-Chief!

To these two dedicated members, both the church staff and the entire congregation extend special thanks for their extraordinary service.

Birthdays

October 2	Ronnie Weade
October 3	Leanne Rohlk
October 5	Barbara Nunnally Jacob Proffitt Matt Strum
October 7	Rose Hudson
October 10	Bob Ford
October 11	Rhea Calfee Terri Edwards
October 13	Adam Sykes
October 15	Meghan Gary
October 19	Roger Frankey
October 26	Rosemarie Adkins
October 29	Andrew Russell
October 30	Samantha Jones
October 31	Jean Richardson

Anniversaries

October 5	C.W. & Kelly Rice Matt & Susana Strum
October 11	Keith & Kay Callis
October 16	Steve & Nancy Taylor
October 23	Ray & Becky Jenkins
October 27	Lee & Tammy Morris
October 29	Heather & Ronnie Jones
October 29	Bob & Barbara Armstrong
October 30	Wayne & Dianne Johnson



Super Cyber Guy, Brian Kaeser



Responder-in-Chief, Keith Miller



To be extra Covid-safe, Pastor Lisa began this preschool season of chapel in the great outdoors! The chapel times are being recorded on video and shared with the preschool and church community.

Preschool is Open!

We are off to a great start! The teachers have done an amazing job to ensure that we are having a safe and FUN preschool experience! We have been blessed with beautiful weather and created outdoor space for chapel, art, and snacks! Great ideas sometimes come from change and this is one of them. We are getting creative about utilizing outdoor classroom space, and loving it!

We couldn't do this without the amazing support of the church staff and Congregational Care Committee. Thank you to Rhea and Bobbie Strum and Brenda Staehle for the beautiful prayer cards for each staff member and for organizing the surprise delivery of Kip Barefoot's famous scones and tea to our September staff meeting. If you haven't been to Kip's Tea House, just up the road, you are missing a real treat! Another big thank you to Clinton, Wilmer, Bobbie, Ronnie, and Keith for getting our building in tiptop shape!! Wouldn't you agree that this is one awesome team?!

Music Notes for October 2020

I am looking forward to presenting on-line piano concerts at St. Luke's during the fall season of October, November, and December. Utilizing our new video and audio equipment will greatly enhance the live-streamed performance due to our grand piano location and other compatible components.

These concerts are in duo sponsorship with Salisbury Presbyterian Church where I am the accompanist for the Jubilation Senior-Adult Choir. There will be a Zoom link for St. Luke's members as well as the Jubilation Choir to watch and listen from the comfort of your homes. You will receive further information at a later date after all of the details are sorted out.

A word of appreciation goes out to all of those sanctuary choir members, Donna Miller and Ray Jenkins for assisting in leading the morning worship services and the afternoon Vesper services. Your contributions have enhanced and brightened the services more than you can ever imagine. Thank you so much.

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to Marcia Grubbs and her family. Marcia's father, Raymond Fayle, claimed the promise of the resurrection on September 8th, 2020.

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to Marcia Grubbs and family at the passing of her uncle, Robert Griffin, at age 91. Her mother's oldest brother, he lived in Albuquerque, N.M.

September - October Evening Vesper Services

On Sunday evenings in September and October, in the gorgeous fall weather, St. Luke's is gathering for vespers on the front lawn of the church. Bob plays keyboard and arranges for guest musicians. Thus far, our thanks go to Bob, Donna on the bells, Ray J. on the trumpet and Ken, who sang two solos.

